SUPERMAN-NATIONAL COMICS
DC
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SHOWCASE
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NO. 11
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
presents
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN
OUR PREPARATIONS ARE ALMOST COMPLETE-- AND IN EXACTLY ONE HOUR, THIS IS WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOUR PLANET!
"The DAY THE EARTH BLEW UP!"

IS MAN THE ONLY INTELLIGENT BEING IN THE UNIVERSE? THERE MAY BE A FEARFUL ANSWER TO THIS MYSTERY! IT CAN COME SUDDENLY— SILENTLY... RUTHLESSLY, FROM THE VAST DARKNESS OF THE UNKNOWN! IT MAY WELL SHAKE THE FOUNDATIONS OF OUR WORLD. HERE, ONCE AGAIN, MATCHED AGAINST FORCES OF INCREDIBLE POWER ARE THE **CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN!** FOUR YOUNG MEN OF DARING WHO WILL BET THEIR LIVES AGAINST ANY ODDS-- AND THERE COULD BE NO GREATER ODDS THAN THOSE THEY FACED ON...

The DAY THE EARTH BLEW UP

LOOK OUT! HERE COMES ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE **THINGS!**

WHAT ARE THEY? WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

AT A SECRET CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, D.C., A MATTER OF GRAVE CONCERN IS UNDER DISCUSSION...

YOU'VE HEARD COMMANDER LOCKWOOD! MUST WE ACCEPT HIS FACTS? CAN WE WRITE OFF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF TWO OF OUR MOST VALUABLE SCIENTISTS AS A TRAGIC ACCIDENT?

CARL JACKSON AND WARREN MOSS WERE NO STRANGERS TO LITTLE AMERICA! THEY WERE VETERAN EXPLORERS! MEN LIKE THAT DO NOT JUST VANISH!

THEY HAD AN ADVANTAGE OF THE LATEST AND BEST SURVIVAL EQUIPMENT! THE FACTS SHOW THEY NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO USE IT! WHY? WHY?

EXACTLY MY VIEW! WE HAVE A PROBLEM DEALING WITH THE **UNKNOWN,** GENTLEMEN! MAY I SUGGEST THE MEN MOST CAPABLE OF HANDLING IT-- **THE CHALLENGERS!**

CATAPULTED INTO WORLD FAME BY DEEDS OF INDESCRIBABLE DARING, FOUR MEN HAVE SWORN TO TREAD THE PATH WHICH ALL MEN FEAR... THE DANGEROUS ROAD BEYOND THE THINGS WE KNOW! THEY CALL THEMSELVES...
The CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN!
ONE OF THEM IS JET PILOT ACE MORGAN, WHO TESTS AIR FORCE EQUIPMENT ON THE THRESHOLD OF SPACE ITSELF!
ANOTHER IS PROF HARRISON, WHO DARES TO EXPLORE THE SEA WHERE NO MAN WOULD RISK THE CRUSHING DEPTHS!
ON ONE OF MOUNT EVEREST'S MOST TREACHEROUS PEAKS, RED RYAN GAMBLES WITH HIS LIFE AGAINST THE SHEER ICY WALLS THAT RISE ABOVE THE CLOUDS!
AND WHEN THE UNKNOWN TESTS A MAN'S STAMINA AND STRENGTH TO THEIR LIMIT, ROCKY DAVIS, CHAMPION WRESTLER, WILL RISK THAT TEST... ANY PLACE... ANY TIME!

THERE IS NO DANGER, DARE OR CHALLENGING RISK THESE MEN WILL NOT ACCEPT! THEY'VE WALKED UNHARMED FROM A PLANE CRASH THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN FATAL. THIS HAS FORMED THEIR PHILOSOPHY--"WE'RE LIVING ON BORROWED TIME." AND JUDGING FROM THEIR PREVIOUS ADVENTURES, THEY HAVE LIVED UP TO THEIR CODE!
WE SHOULD CONTACT THE CHALLENGERS AT ONCE!
A LONG DISTANCE PHONE CALL IS PLACED TO THEIR HEADQUARTERS WITHOUT DELAY...
YES SIR! I UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION! WE WILL MAKE IMMEDIATE PLANS! GOODBYE, SIR!
WHO'S THAT, ACE? HAS SOME BIRD HOOKED YOU INTO FLYING HIS ROCKET TO THE MOON?
NOW, I'VE GOT A BEAUTY OF AN ASSIGNMENT-- TRACKING DOWN AN ANCIENT TOLTEC IDOL IN A TEMPLE DEEP IN THE JUNGLES OF YUCATAN!
THAT'S OUT, ROCKY! DITCH YOUR TROPICS AND SWITCH TO WARMER CLOTHING! WE'RE HEADING FOR LITTLE AMERICA!
HUH?
SOUNDS LIKE ACTION, ACE! BUT WHAT ABOUT PROF? HE'S SKIN DIVING OFF THE NEW GUINEA COAST!
THEN WE'LL TAKE THE PACIFIC ROUTE TO THE ANTARCTIC AND PICK UP PROF ON THE WAY!
MEANWHILE, BENEATH THE WATERS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC, PROF HALEY PURSUES A RARE PRIZE!
A LIVING, BREATHING TRILOBITE! HIS LIKE HASN'T BEEN SEEN FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS!
SUDDENLY, THE OCEAN REELS TO A TREMENDOUS SHOCK!
3

ALARMED BY THIS UNUSUAL DEVELOPMENT, PROF HEADS FOR THE SURFACE--AND WITNESSES A MOST SPECTACULAR SIGHT!
A MOUNTAIN TOP RISING OUT OF THE OCEAN!
THEN...
BOOM!
THE OCEAN STEAMS AND ROCKS AS THE NEWLY ACTIVE VOLCANO POURS FIERY DEATH INTO THE SKY!
THIS IS AN UNHEARD OF PHENOMENON! WAIT TILL I TELL THE BOYS!
WHEN PROF SAILS CLEAR OF THE FLAMING DESTRUCTION, HE ANSWERS THE URGENT SIGNALS FLOWING FROM THE RECEIVER OF HIS CABIN RADIO...
ACE! IT'S GREAT TO HEAR YOUR VOICE! LISTEN, I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU ABOUT--
SAVE IT, PROF! WE'RE AIRBORNE ON AN IMPORTANT MISSION. GIVE US YOUR POSITION AND WE'LL PICK YOU UP!
DOCKING HIS SMALL CRAFT NEAR HIS CAMP ALONG THE NEW GUINEA COAST, PROF WAITS FOR THE CHALLENGER PLANE TO ARRIVE...
HOP IN, PROF! WE'VE GOT YOUR GEAR INSIDE! I'LL BRIEF YOU ON THE MISSION AS SOON AS WE'RE ON OUR WAY!
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN
LATER, AS PROF TELLS HIS STORY...
BUT WHEN AN UNDERSEA VOLCANO, INACTIVE FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS, SUDDENLY RISES FROM THE SEA AND BLASTS OFF--WELL, IT BEARS CLOSE INVESTIGATION!
WE'LL LEAVE THAT TO OTHERS! OUR JOB RIGHT NOW IS TO FIND A CLUE TO THOSE MISSING SCIENTISTS!

THE LONG FLIGHT COMES TO AN END AT THE AMERICAN BASE IN THE GLACIAL VASTNESS OF THE ANTARCTIC!
HERE THEY COME NOW, COLONEL PRICE!
SEND THEM TO MY QUARTERS AS SOON AS THEY LAND!
SOON AFTER, IN THE COLONEL'S QUONSET HUT, THE CHALLENGERS MAP OUT THEIR NEXT MOVE!
WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY, COLONEL. IF OUR SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT ARE READY, WE'LL GET ON WITH THE JOB!
WE PRESSED THE SEARCH FOR JACKSON AND MOSS--IN THIS AREA--AND FOUND NO TRACE OF THEM!
EXCEPT FOR THEIR ABANDONED EQUIPMENT, THERE WAS NOTHING TO BE SEEN ON THAT FLAT, ICY, BARREN WASTE-- NOTHING! AND YET, I HAD THE STRANGEST FEELING-- AS IF ALL AROUND ME WERE THINGS-- HIDING-- WATCHING--! A FANTASTIC NOTION IN A PLACE SO EXPOSED TO CLOSE INSPECTION!
THE CHALLENGERS, PROPERLY SUPPLIED AND EQUIPPED, LEAVE ON THEIR JOURNEY INTO THE WHITE UNKNOWN...
WHAT AN ASSIGNMENT! LOOKING FOR TWO GUYS FROZEN IN A CAKE OF ICE--THE SIZE OF THE UNITED STATES!
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE AN EXCITING JOB, BUT IT'S AN IMPORTANT ONE! THE FATE OF JACKSON AND MOSS IS A MATTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY!
THE MILES GO BY IN MONOTONOUS SUCCESSION UNTIL A BLIZZARD OF BLINDING FORCE WHIPS ACROSS THE FROZEN WASTELANDS!
WOW! I'VE SEEN BLIZZARDS-- BUT NOTHING LIKE THIS!
NO USE RIDING BLIND-- WE MIGHT HIT A CREVASSE! WE'LL STOP HERE AND WAIT TILL THIS BLOWS OVER!
AFTER MANY HOURS...
THE BLIZZARD'S DIED DOWN, PROF! ROCKY AND I WILL LOOK AROUND TO GET OUR BEARINGS!
OKAY! RED AND I WILL DIG THIS SNOW WAGON OUT OF THESE DRIFTS!
5

I'VE NEVER SEEN SO MANY MILES AND MILES OF NOTHING!
SUDDENLY, A RUMBLING TREMOR SHAKES THE GROUND-- AND WITH A GREAT ROAR, A GIANT FISSURE CRACKS OPEN BENEATH THE CHALLENGERS' FEET!
ACE! LOOK OUT!
WHAT-!
CRACK
THE MEN DROP LIKE STONES INTO THE DEEP CREVASSE!
MIRACULOUSLY, THEIR FALL IS BROKEN WHEN THEY LAND ON A HUGE METALLIC MASS PROJECTING FROM THE WALL OF THE CREVASSE!
ACE! WE'RE LUCKY TO BE ALIVE! BUT WHAT IS THIS THING?
I--I DON'T KNOW, ROCKY!
THIS GIANT TUBE IS THE HANDIWORK OF A STRANGE INTELLIGENCE! WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK WITH NEWS OF THIS!
WE CAN'T CLIMB UP THE CREVASSE! IT'S TOO HIGH -- A SHEER WALL OF ICE! THERE'S NO WAY OUT OF THIS! WE'RE TRAPPED, ACE!
6

MEANWHILE, ON THE SURFACE ABOVE...
DID YOU FEEL THAT EARTH TREMOR, RED? IT KNOCKED ME OFF MY FEET!
QUICK! WE'VE GOT TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO ACE AND ROCKY!
THEIR TRACKS LEAD TO THIS OPEN CREVASSE! RED-- DO YOU THINK THEY--
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY FELL THROUGH. LET'S GO BACK TO THE TRACTOR FOR EQUIPMENT! IF THERE'S A SLIM CHANCE THEY'RE ALIVE, WE'RE GOING TO HAUL THEM UP!
BUT, AS THEY NEAR THE TRACTOR...
PROF! LOOK!
GOOD GRIEF! WHAT ARE THEY?
I-I'VE NEVER SEEN THEIR LIKE BEFORE! THEY'VE CUT US OFF FROM THE TRACTOR!
--AND OUR RIFLES!
DO NOT ATTEMPT ESCAPE! WE CAN ANTICIPATE YOUR EVERY MOVE! YOU MUST COME WITH US!
DAZED BY THIS FANTASTIC DEVELOPMENT, PROF AND RED FIND ANOTHER SURPRISE!
MOVE ON! ENTER THE SHAFT!
JUMPING CATFISH, PROF! WHAT ARE WE IN FOR NEXT?
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CONTINUED IN CHAPTER TWO

THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN
GO DOWN, DOWN, DOWN, FOR AN ENDLESS DROP INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE EARTH -- WHERE THE DOORS OF THE UNKNOWN HAVE BEEN FLUNG OPEN WIDE -- TO ADMIT THE GREATEST DANGER EVER KNOWN TO MAN --
THE TYRANS
CHAPTER TWO
FORCED OVER THE LIP OF A GREAT OPENING IN THE EARTH, PROF AND RED, ACCOMPANIED BY A NEW ESCORT OF THE STRANGE CREATURES, FLOAT DOWN A GIANT SHAFT THAT PLUNGES DEEP INTO THE EARTH!
PROF! WE SHOULD BE DROPPING LIKE STONES!
B-BUT WE'RE FLOATING DOWN!
THOSE CREATURES SOMEHOW CONTROL THE GRAVITY IN THIS SHAFT!

WHEN THEY FINALLY REACH BOTTOM...
LET'S TRY TO MAKE A BREAK FOR IT WHEN WE LAND!
IT'S WORTH A TRY, RED!
BUT THEIR PLAN IS NIPPED IN THE BUD WHEN THEY TOUCH GROUND!
PROF! LOOK OUT! (COUGH--) GAS--GAS!
A DASH OF ATMOSPHERE FROM THE FOURTH PLANET OF OUR OWN STAR SYSTEM MAY NOT AFFECT US-- BUT IT REACTS LIKE AN ANESTHETIC ON EARTHMEN!
THEY SLEEP! NOW LET US CARRY OUT OUR ORDERS!
MEANWHILE, TRAPPED ON THE STRANGE MAMMOTH TUBE THAT PROJECTS FROM THE WALL OF A DEEP CREVASSE, ACE AND ROCKY SEEK A WAY OUT OF THEIR DANGEROUS PREDICAMENT...
THIS LOOKS LIKE SOME GIANT VENTILATOR TUBE! WE COULD CRAWL THROUGH THIS VALVE AND SEE WHERE THE TUBE LEADS!
IT FEELS HOT INSIDE. WE MAY HAVE TO TAKE OFF OUR ARCTIC CLOTHES!
YOU WERE RIGHT, ROCKY!
WOW! A GUY COULD ROAST IN HERE!
ACE AND ROCKY MAKE THEIR WAY THROUGH THE GREAT TUBE FOR WHAT SEEMS ENDLESS MILES. THEN...
ROCKY! LOOK!
GOOD GRIEF! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
2

MEN, MACHINES AND BUILDINGS! BUT THEY'RE NOT LIKE ANYTHING EVER SEEN ON EARTH! WE'VE GOT TO SCOUT THIS SETUP, ROCKY!
WE'D BETTER! THERE'S SOMETHING WHICH CAN ONLY HAVE ONE MEANING!
THAT SPELLS "ARMY" IN ANY MAN'S LANGUAGE, ACE-- THIS IS SOME SORT OF MILITARY OPERATION!
AS ACE AND ROCKY CAUTIOUSLY LEAVE THEIR PERCH THEY FIND THEMSELVES LIGHT AS FEATHERS.
HANG ON TO SOMETHING, ROCKY! FOR SOME REASON WE WEIGH LESS IN THIS PLACE
ACE, I--I CAN'T KEEP MY BALANCE!
WE NEED A WEAPON, ACE! WE'D STAND A BETTER CHANCE!
HERE'S AN ARMED SENTRY, WHILE I GO FOR HIS WEAPON. YOU KNOCK HIM OUT!
BUT IT IS ACE AND ROCKY WHO ARE SURPRISED!
ALTHOUGH SEIZED BY ACE, THE CREATURE QUICKLY TURNS ON ROCKY
A SWIFT BLOW PUTS ROCKY OUT OF ACTION...
IT IS AS IF THE CREATURE HAD KNOWN THEIR PLAN AT A GLANCE AND PREVENTED EVERY MOVE! HE KICKS AT ACE'S LEGS!
A LIGHTER GRAVITY DOES THE REST!
OFF BALANCE, ACE SAILS INTO A WALL AND BLACKS OUT!
3

WHEN ACE COMES TO, HE IS STARTLED AT FINDING HIMSELF AMONG FAMILIAR FACES!
PROF, RED, HOW--?
THERE'S ONLY ONE ANSWER, ACE! WE ALL MET UP WITH THE TYRANS! NOW, WE'RE THEIR PRISONERS!
IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING WHAT TYRANS ARE, YOUNG MAN, THEY ARE INHABITANTS OF THE STAR THEY CALL TYRAN--AN AGGRESSIVE RACE WHO WANT THE EARTH FOR THEIR OWN!
DON'T TELL ME. YOU GENTLEMEN ARE JACKSON AND MOSS, THE MISSING SCIENTISTS! AT ANY RATE, WE KNOW NOW HOW THE VANISHING ACT WAS DONE!
THE TRICK OF GETTING BACK WON'T BE SIMPLE! MY COLLEAGUE, DR. JACKSON, HAS BARELY TOUCHED ON THE TYRAN MENACE! YOU'VE SEEN THESE BEINGS--YOU'VE SEEN HOW EASILY THEY OUT-MANEUVERED YOU!
IT BEATS ME HOW ONE OF THOSE STICK-LEGGED, PUFFED-UP CLOWNS WITH A BUMP ON HIS HEAD CAN BEAT A GUY TO THE PUNCH!
THAT BUMP ON HIS HEAD IS AN AUXILIARY BRAIN! IT'S VERY MUCH LIKE A MATHEMATICAL COMPUTER--A CALCULATING MACHINE!
IN SHORT, SIR, WE "CLOWNS" CAN CALCULATE ANY POSSIBLE MOVE YOU MIGHT MAKE TO ESCAPE--I CAN TELL YOU THAT ANY SUCH MOVE WOULD BE INSTANTLY BLOCKED.
DO NOT APOLOGIZE FOR THE YOUNG EARTHMAN'S BRASHNESS, SCIENTIST MOSS! I FIND YOUR SPECIES MOST INTERESTING... I SHALL CONTINUE TO DO MY BEST TO PRESERVE A FEW FOR STUDY ON THE DAY OF THE GREAT SHOCK
WHO IS HE, MOSS? WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?
COME! THERE IS TO BE A DEMONSTRATION THAT WILL ENLIGHTEN YOU! I HAVE BEEN GRANTED PERMISSION BY GENERAL TOLEK TO ALLOW YOU TO WITNESS IT!
4

THE TYRAN LEADS THE EARTHMEN INTO A GREAT CHAMBER, WHERE THEY SEE--
THAT TECHNICIAN IS PLANTING EXPLOSIVE CHARGES IN A MODEL OF YOUR PLANET!
WE'RE READY FOR THE TEST, GENERAL TOLEK.
AT A SIGNAL FROM THE GENERAL, A SWITCH IS THROWN-- AND A SERIES OF EXPLOSIVES ROCK THE MODEL PLANET!
BOOM!
WHAT YOU SEE, EARTHMAN, IS A SMALL SCALE MODEL TEST OF OUR FINAL OPERATION ON YOUR PLANET... A SIMULTANEOUS EXPLOSION OF GIANT CHARGES WILL TEAR A CALCULATED AMOUNT OF A MASS FROM THE CORE OF YOUR PLANET...
"AND FLING IT OUT INTO SPACE! THIS WILL LIGHTEN YOUR PLANET, CHANGING ITS SPECIFIC GRAVITY..."
"GREAT TIDAL WAVES FROM YOUR OCEANS WILL SWEEP OVER YOUR CITIES!"
"OF COURSE, ALL THIS WILL RESULT IN CHAOS ON YOUR PLANET, AND THE SURVIVORS WILL BE EASILY CONQUERED. WE TYRANS WILL THEN TAKE OVER A WORLD WHOSE GRAVITY IS IDEAL FOR US."
IN THIS MANNER, WE TYRANS HAVE EXPANDED ACROSS MANY GALAXIES. THAT IT WILL DESTROY MANY INTERESTING FORMS OF LIFE IS REGRETTABLE, BUT IT CANNOT BE HELPED!
YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH IT! I'LL...
EASY, PAL! DON'T UPSET THE APPLE CART!
5

WHEN THEY ARE RETURNED TO THEIR CELL, ACE IS GIVEN MORE INFORMATION...
DON'T BLOW YOUR TOP, ACE! THAT TYRAN IS THE REASON WE'RE STILL ALIVE!
HIS NAME IS GARNAT. HE'S A CIVILIAN SCIENTIST ATTACHED TO THE TYRAN TASK FORCE HERE! HE MAKES A STUDY OF ALL THE RACES DOOMED BY THE TYRANS!
THESE TYRANS CAN'T BE INVINCIBLE. THERE MUST BE A WAY TO OUTSMART THEM.
BUT THOSE AUXILIARY BRAINS, YET, IF THEIR MINDS OPERATE FASTER THAN OURS, I'LL WAGER THEY'LL TIRE MORE EASILY!
THAT MAY BE THE CRACK IN THEIR ARMOR! IF YOU CAN GET THIS GARNAT HERE DURING HIS REST PERIOD, HE'LL BE JUST RIPE FOR WHAT I'VE GOT IN STORE FOR HIM!
LATER, GARNAT IS AWAKENED BY A GUARD WITH AN URGENT MESSAGE FROM THE EARTHMEN...
I DO NOT TAKE KINDLY TO THOSE WHO INTERRUPT MY REST, EARTHMAN! WHAT IS IT?
YOU'LL BE INTERESTED IN THIS, GARNAT!
ONE OF OUR MEN IS EXPERIENCING A RARE PHENOMENON! WE CALL IT A TRANCE! IF YOU WISH TO STUDY HIM CLOSELY, YOU'LL HAVE TO LOOK DEEP INTO HIS EYES.
BUT IN ACE'S STARING EYES IS A TRAP! AND THROUGH HIS LIPS COMES A MONOTONOUS DRONING SOUND THAT WEAVES A SPELL ABOUT THE ALREADY DROWSY TYRAN...
SLEEP-- YOU MUST-- SLEEEE-EEP--
6
SOON, ACE BOLTS TO HIS FEET AND...
GARNAT! YOUR WILL IS NOW MINE! YOU WILL OBEY MY EVERY COMMAND.
I WILL OBEY!
ACE! YOU DID IT. YOU HYPNOTIZED HIM. WE'VE GOT OURSELVES AN AUXILIARY BRAIN.
CONTINUED IN CHAPTER THREE

HOW MUCH TIME HAS MANKIND LEFT--BEFORE IT IS BLASTED INTO CHAOS BY HIDDEN INVADERS? ONLY THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN CAN TAKE ANY ACTION! BUT HAVE THEY GOT A CHANCE AGAINST THE STAGGERING MIGHT OF THE CONQUERING TYRANS? CAN THEY STOP A SUPERIOR INTELLIGENCE THAT GUIDES COLOSSAL ENGINES OF DESTRUCTION LIKE--
THE THING THAT CAME OUT OF THE SEA
CHAPTER THREE
I'VE GOT TO STOP THIS MECHANICAL MONSTER OR DIE IN THE ATTEMPT!
FALL BACK! OUR WEAPONS CAN'T HARM IT!

FROM THE HYPNOTIZED TYRAN NOW UNDER THEIR CONTROL, THE CHALLENGERS DRAIN WHAT FACTS THEY CAN FROM HIM BEFORE THEY ATTEMPT ESCAPE. .
WE NOW HAVE A CREW PLANTING THE LAST OF OUR EARTH-SHATTERING CHARGES IN THE WATERS OFF THE AMER CAN COAST. THEN WE WILL BE READY S.MULTANEOUSLY.
THAT ERUPTION I TOLD YOU ABOUT MUST HAVE BEEN ONLY A SMALL PREL M NARY TEST!
THE CHALLENGERS SUBMIT VARIOUS SUGGESTIONS FOR ESCAPE TO THE HYPNOTIZED TYRAN. GARNAT'S AUXILIARY BRAIN ABSORBS THEM--SORTS THEM--REJECTS THEM, AND COMES UP WITH AN ANSWER OF TS OWN...
ONE WALL OF YOUR CELL HAD A CONCEALED DOOR! IT OPENED TO A COMBINATION OF SOUNDS MADE BY MY VO.CE.
A HIDDEN CORRIDOR! WHERE ARE YOU TAK NG US?
TO THE GRAVITY CONTROL ROOM! FUNCT ONING IN TYRAN GRAVITY, YOU HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE! IF THE CONTROLS WERE SET FOR EARTH GRAVITY, IT IS THE TYRANS WHO WOULD BE AT YOUR MERCY.
THAT ONE OF THE R NUMBER SHOULD FALL V.CTIM TO HYPNOSIS IS INCONCEIVABLE TO THE TYRANS AND THEIR AUXILIARY BRA NS. THE CHALLENGERS' ATTACK ON THE GRAV TY CONTROL ROOM ACHIEVES TOTAL SURPR SE!
PROF FIGHTS H S WAY TO THE GRAV TY CONTROLS AND W TH THE HYPNOTIZED TYRAN'S HELP, ESTAB. SHES EARTH GRAVITY IN THE ROOM! THEN . .
THE TYRANS ARE GLUED TO THE FLOOR! IN EARTH GRAVITY THEY WE GH SO M.CH, THEY CAN'T MOVE.
EVEN OUR PAL, GARNAT!
YOU'VE LEARNED SOME-TH NG ABOUT THIS BASE, DR. MOBS! WE'VE GOT TO F ND A WAY OF MAKING A QUICK EXIT!
GARNAT TOLD ME ABOUT A MACH.NE THAT BEAMS THE TYRANS BOD LY ACROSS ANY DISTANCE! THEY USE NO SPACESH.PS! THESE PEOPLE AND THEIR EQUIPMENT ARRIVED ON EARTH BY ELECTRONIC TRANSM SS ON FROM TYRAN!

FOCUS THE BEAM OF THAT MACHINE ON WASHINGTON, D.C. AND YOU CAN BE THERE IN AN INSTANT! BUT THERE'S ANOTHER MACHINE HERE -- THE GIANT DETONATOR THAT WILL SET OFF THE CHARGES PLANTED BY THE TYRANS AROUND OUR PLANET...
DR. JACKSON AND I ARE STAYING BEHIND TO WRECK THAT DETONATOR!
ROCKY AND I WILL TACKLE THAT JOB WITH YOU! BUT EVEN IF THE DETONATOR IS WRECKED, THE TYRANS PLANTING THE CHARGE OFF THE AMERICAN COAST WILL BE IN A POSITION TO BLOW IT UP MANUALLY!
THAT'S WHY PROF AND RED ARE GOING THROUGH THAT TRANSMITTER TO WASHINGTON, D.C. TO WARN THE WORLD AGAINST THE TYRANS AND PREVENT THAT UNDERSEA EXPLOSIVE FROM BEING SET OFF!
CHECK! NOW TO LOCATE THAT TRANSMITTER ON THE CONTROL BOARD AND CLAMP DOWN EARTH GRAVITY OVER THAT AREA!
MOMENTS LATER, THE TYRANS AT THE ELECTRONIC TRANSMITTER ARE CRUSHED TO THE GROUND BY EARTH WEIGHT!
PROF AND RED SOON MAKE THEIR APPEARANCE! AND WHEN PROF SETS THEIR DESIRED DESTINATION ON THE EARTH GLOBE ABOVE THE TRANSMITTER, RED LEAPS INTO THE CRACKLING LIGHT-- AND VANISHES!
I'LL FOLLOW IN A SECOND, RED!
IN A FLASH...
WHAT--?
IT WORKS! I'M IN WASHINGTON! WHAT A WAY TO TRAVEL!
WHAT IS THAT THING? WHO ARE YOU GUYS?
WE'RE SAYING THE STORY FOR NAVAL INTELLIGENCE! JUST GIVE US DIRECTIONS! IT'S URGENT.
3

SOON AFTER, IN A ROOM AT NAVAL INTELLIGENCE
INCREDIBLE! THEIR STORY CHECKS, SIR! THESE MEN ARE LISTED AS HAVING VANISHED ON A FIELD TRIP IN THE ANTARCTIC WILDS
IT WOULD'VE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO HAVE RETURNED HERE--UNLESS YOU REALLY USED THAT TYRAN MACHINE.
LOOK, ADMIRAL--
THERE IS VERY LITTLE TIME LEFT! THE TYRAN EXPLOSIVE NOW BEING PLANTED OFF OUR COAST MUST NOT BE TRIGGERED MANUALLY! IF IT GOES OFF, IT WILL WRECK THE CONTINENTAL SHELF AND DO TREMENDOUS DAMAGE TO OUR CITIES AND SHIPPING!
GREAT SCOTT! ALL OUR RESOURCES MUST GO INTO AN ALL-OUT EFFORT TO STOP THAT EXPLOSION!
THE EFFORT IS MADE--A TREMENDOUS EFFORT! SCORES OF SCIENTISTS AND TECHNICAL LABOR, ORGANIZED IN TEAMS, WORK SWIFTLY, INTENSELY, TIRELESSLY AND ALMOST OVERNIGHT PRODUCE A MOST AMAZING DIVING SUIT FOR PROF!
YOU'LL FIND THIS LIGHT, YET STRONG AS STEEL
THE CALCULATOR BUILT INTO YOUR HELMET SHOULD BE A MATCH FOR THE TYRAN AUXILIARY BRAIN! IT IS SENSITIVE TO THOUGHT VIBRATIONS WHICH ARE ELECTRICAL IN NATURE. THIS SCREEN WILL FLASH AT THE APPROACH OF ANYTHING WITH AN I.Q. LARGER THAN A FISH'S!
AFTER SWIFT BUT CAREFUL PREPARATION...
A LARGE NAVAL FORCE WOULD AROUSE THE TYRANS' SUSPICIONS--BUT A LONE SUBMARINE PLYING A NORMAL SEA ROUTE WOULD STAND A BETTER CHANCE...
TO RELEASE A MAN FOR A DEADLY SABOTAGE JOB!

DEEP IN THE UNDERSEA CANYONS THAT ARE A PART OF THE AMER CAN CONTINENTAL SHELF, PROF DIVES WITH-IN SIGHT OF THE HUGE TYRAN OPERATION!
WOW! LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THAT BOMB! IT MUST BE PUT OUT OF COMM SSION.
BUT THE TYRANS ARE EVEN PREPARED FOR A ONE-MAN ATTACK!
MY INSTRUMENT RECORDS AN INTRUDER!
THERE HE GOES!
PROF'S L GHTN NG CAL.L.ATOR HELPS H M AVO D THE OTHER TRAPS NA T NG FOR H M!
ALERT! ALERT. EARTHMAN IN V C N TY! SHOOT ON S GHT!
GUARD
ELUDING HIS PURSUERS, PROF MAKES H S WAY TO THE HUGE TYRAN EXPLOS VE CHARGE, AND F ND NG AN OPEN SECT ON, PROCEEDS TO WREAK HAVOC H TH THE NTRICATE MECHAN SM:
I'VE FUSED WIRES AND WRECKED ENOUGH OF THESE INSTRUMENTS TO MAKE THIS EXPLOSIVE USELESS TO THE TYRANS!
HE TYRANS DISCOVER PROF TOO LATE! H.S WORK IS DONE AND HE BOLTS FOR FREEDOM!
THE EARTHMAN! GET HIM.
HE'S DAMAGED THE EXPLOSIVE! WE MUST TELL OUR COMMANDER!
5

SOON AFTER, IN THE QUARTERS OF THE TYRAN COMMANDER..
OUR MISSION IN THESE WATERS HAS BEEN DISCOVERED AND SABOTAGED! WHAT'S MORE, WE CANNOT GET OUR CREWS BACK THROUGH THE TRANSMITTER-- THERE MUST BE SOME TROUBLE AT OUR ANTARCTIC BASE
THEN, IF WE CAN'T WITHDRAW, WE SHALL ASSEMBLE OUR MACHINES AND LAUNCH A DIRECT INVASION OF THE LAND ON THE SURFACE!
BUT THE UNITED STATES AIR AND NAVAL FORCES ARE WAITING ABOVE! WHEN THE TYRANS EMERGE
HERE THEY COME! OPEN FIRE!
THE NAVAL FORCES DO NOT CEASE FIRING UNTIL THEY FEEL CERTAIN THE TYRANS ARE DESTROYED. BUT, LATER, ON A COASTAL ISLAND OCCUPIED BY A GARRISON OF MARINES..
S.R: WHAT'S THAT COMING OUT OF THE WATER?
RISING FROM THE WAVES LIKE SOME HUGE, PRIMEVAL MONSTER A LONE SURVIVOR OF THE NAVAL ATTACK MAKES FOR THE LAND!
FALL BACK. THIS CALLS FOR HEAVY WEAPONS.
NOTHING CAN STOP THE TYRAN MACHINE.
LOOK OUT!
MEANWHILE, RED RYAN, WHO HAS BEEN AWAITING DEVELOPMENTS, GETS NEWS OF THE TYRANS' EMERGENCE ON SHORE:
THE MARINES' SITUATION IS DESPERATE SIR. THEY'LL NEED FLEET AND AIR SUPPORT!
THAT MAY COST MANY LIVES. PROF HAS DONE HIS JOB--NOW LET ME DO MINE.
CONTINUED IN CHAPTER FOUR

THE CHIPS ARE DOWN! THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN HAVE FORCED THE HANDS OF THE TYRANS! WITH THEIR MISSION REVEALED, THE TYRANS HAVE BUT ONE CHOICE--TO DETONATE THE REST OF THE EXPLOSIVES THEY HAVE PLANTED AROUND THE EARTH! AND HUMANITY'S LAST HOPE IS A HANDFUL OF MEN FIGHTING DESPERATELY AGAINST TIME!

CHAPTER FOUR

THIS IS THE FACE OF THE ENEMY--THE TYRAN GENERAL TOLEK! MIRRORED IN HIS EYES IS THE CRUEL DECISION TO SET OFF HIS WORLD-WIDE NETWORK OF EXPLOSIVES.

AND IN THE HEART OF THE ENEMY CAMP, ACE AND ROCKY HAVE THE MOST DANGEROUS JOB IN ALL HISTORY--TO REACH THE DETONATOR AND **WRECK** IT!

AND WAITING FOR THE DEATH SIGNAL TO SOUND IS THE ELECTRONIC DETONATOR! IT IS...

ONE MINUTE TO DOOM

AT THE ANTARCTIC BASE OF THE TYRAN INVADERS, THE EARTHMEN WHO HAVE CAPTURED THE GRAVITY CONTROL ROOM WITH THE AID OF A HYPNOTIZED TYRAN, FIND THEIR CAPTIVE USELESS TO THEM...

GARNAT CAN'T FUNCTION IN EARTH GRAVITY, SO WE'LL HAVE TO GO AHEAD WITH THIS JOB ON OUR OWN.

WE'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST! BY THIS TIME THE TYRANS KNOW WE'VE BROKEN IN HERE! THEY'LL COUNTERATTACK ANY SECOND NOW!

THE GRAVITY CONTROL BOARD IS SO COMPLEX IT MAY BE DANGEROUS FOR US TO TRY TO CHANGE THE GRAVITY OF THE ENTIRE BASE--BUT I'VE LOCATED THE DETONATOR AREA AND CHANGED IT TO EARTH GRAVITY!

AT THAT MOMENT...
GAS! THE TYRANS ARE FILLING THE ROOM WITH GAS!
QUICK, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
THEN, THE EARTHMEN BEGIN THEIR DASH TO THE DETONATOR...
I JAMMED THE LOCK ON THE GRAVITY CONTROL ROOM! THE TYRANS WILL HAVE TO BLAST THEIR WAY IN!
THEN, UNTIL THEY DO, THE CONTROLS WILL STAY AT EARTH GRAVITY--
MAYBE LONG ENOUGH FOR US TO REACH THE DETONATOR!
WE'VE BEEN LUCKY--TOO LUCKY! WITH GARNAT, WE KEPT ONE JUMP AHEAD OF THE TYRANS! NOW--ON OUR OWN--WE CAN ONLY PRAY!
EARTH GRAVITY IS ON OUR SIDE! LET'S SEE THE TYRANS GET TO THE DETONATOR IN EARTH GRAVITY!
SUDDENLY, ROCKY GETS A SURPRISING ANSWER!
KEEOW! I SPOKE TOO SOON! HERE THEY COME-- IN PRESSURIZED CARS!
ACE! THEY'VE GOT US! WE CAN'T MAKE IT!
IN HERE! QUICK!
WHAT IS THIS PLACE? WHAT GOOD WILL IT DO TO STAY IN HERE?
JUST WATCH!
ACCORDING TO GARNAT, THE DETONATOR AND THE ENTIRE BASE DRAWS TREMENDOUS POWER FROM A SHAFT WHICH THE TYRANS HAVE SUNK TO THE VERY FLAMING CORE OF THE EARTH! FROM THIS ROOM WE CAN REGULATE THE FLOW OF THAT TERRIBLE HEAT! NOW--
2

AS DR. MOSS TURNS THE WHEEL, AN OMINOUS WARMTH REACHES THE PURSUING TYRANS OUTSIDE-- A WARMTH WHICH BECOMES UNBEARABLE HEAT-- A HEAT WHICH BECOMES WHITE, DESTRUCTIVE ENERGY! THEN...
THE EARTHMEN HAVE RELEASED THE HEAT FROM THE PLANET'S CORE! WE'RE TRAPPED!
AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE ROOM THAT HOUSES THE GREAT DETONATOR, GENERAL TOLEK AND AN AIDE, WEARING MOBILE PRESSURIZED SUITS, RUSH INTO VIEW!
THE FOOLS! DID THEY THINK THAT EARTH GRAVITY IN THIS AREA WOULD STOP US? WE'VE BEATEN THE EARTH-MEN TO THE DETONATOR!
AND, NOW, YOU CREATURES THAT CALL YOURSELVES HUMANS-- WHEN I PLUNGE THIS ROD HOME, YOUR CLAIM TO THIS PLANET WILL HAVE ENDED! HA-HA-HA!
BUT TOLEK'S CRUEL ACT IS NEVER COMPLETED! EVEN AS HIS AIDE SHOUTS A WARNING, THE TYRANS AND THE ENTIRE ROOM DISSOLVE IN A SEARING ROAR OF BLAZING ENERGY!
WATCHING THE SCENE ON A TELEVISION SCREEN FROM THEIR CONTROL ROOM...
WE DID IT, ACE! THE DETONATOR IS DESTROYED! HUMANITY IS SAVED!
WE'RE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET-- BUT WE'VE STOPPED THE MAIN THREAT TO EARTH!
NOW TO WITHDRAW THE HEAT FROM WHAT'S LEFT OF THE DETONATOR ROOM AND CHANNEL IT BACK TO THE MAIN SHAFT-- WHICH I'M GOING TO SEE IS SHUT PERMANENTLY!
3

MEANWHILE, THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY, RED RYAN IS BEING LANDED BY HELICOPTER ON THE ISLAND WHERE THE TYRAN MACHINE MOVES RELENTLESSLY AGAINST THE LIGHTLY EQUIPPED MARINE GARRISON!
BUT LIKE A STRIKING COBRA, A MECHANICAL CLAW WHIPS OUT FROM THE TYRAN MACHINE AND PLUCKS RED FROM THE AIR!
WHAT--?
TRY THIS! IT'S A NEW MIXTURE, COMPLIMENTS OF THE EXPERIMENTAL LABS AT THE ARMY'S CHEMICAL WARFARE DIVISION!
THE FIERY, CHEMICAL COMPOUND SPRAYED BY RED IS MORE DESTRUCTIVE THAN NAPALM! THE FLAMES EAT LIKE BLAZING ACID INTO THE VITALS OF THE GREAT MACHINE!
THE STRICKEN MACHINE TURNS OVER, AND RED IS HURLED ABOUT IN THE ACTION. FORTUNATELY, HE LANDS IN A TREE!
EASY, FELLERS! IT'S A TIGHT FIT!
WE'LL HAVE YOU OUT OF THERE AS SOON AS WE PULL THOSE THINGS APART!
WHEN RED IS RUSHED BACK TO WASHINGTON, HE SHOUTS IN GLEEFUL SURPRISE!
HOW ARE YOU, PAL? WE HEARD WHAT YOU DID OUT THERE--AND WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!
ACE! ROCKY! GOSH, I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU! HOW ON EARTH DID YOU GET HERE? I THOUGHT--
4

DO YOU THINK THAT YOU AND PROF ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN TRAVEL BY THAT TYRAN TRANSMITTING MACHINE? THAT BASE WAS IN A PANIC WHEN WE LEFT!
WE DESTROYED THAT DETONATOR, RED! THOSE TWO SCIENTISTS GOT THROUGH SAFELY WITH US!
THAT'S GREAT! I GUESS WE ALL DID PRETTY WELL! SAY, WHERE'S PROF? HAVE THEY HEARD FROM HIM?
HE HAD ENOUGH OXYGEN SUPPLY FOR THREE DAYS-- HE'LL TURN UP. YOU TAKE CARE OF YOUR INJURED ARMS, RED! I'LL SEE YOU WHEN I GET BACK FROM A LITTLE MOP-UP MISSION IN THE ANTARCTIC!
LATER THAT DAY, WITH ACE MORGAN PILOTING THE LEAD SHIP, A SQUADRON OF LONG-RANGE JET BOMBERS STREAKS OFF TOWARD LITTLE AMERICA...
THE RESULT OF THAT MISSION IS REVEALED IN PART IN NEXT DAY'S NEWSPAPERS!
WELL! THAT CERTAINLY FINISHED OFF THE TYRAN BASE! MANKIND WILL NEVER KNOW HOW CLOSE IT CAME TO DISASTER--
--OR THE PART WE CHALLENGERS HAD IN PREVENTING IT!
DAILY BULLETIN
BOMBS LAY WASTE LARGE ANTARCTIC STRIP IN UNUSUAL TEST
MARINES, NAVY HOLD REALISTIC MANEU
BOMBERS OF STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND USED IN TOP SECRET TESTS
HEY, ROCKY! READ THE ARTICLE WHICH TELLS HOW THAT SMELLY FISHING BOAT PICKED ME OUT OF THE WATER! I THINK THEY MADE A MISTAKE ABOUT-- ACHOO!
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE, PROF? YOU'RE ALIVE AND WELL--THAT IS EXCEPT FOR A COLD!
ACE SURE WILL BE GLAD TO SEE YOU WHEN HE GETS BACK!
I WONDER WHAT HE HAS UP HIS SLEEVE FOR OUR NEXT CHALLENGE TO THE UNKNOWN?
THE END.
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